



NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEBRASKA

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President Approves Federal Disaster Declaration for October Blizzard, Floods and Tornadoes in Nebraska

Lincoln, Neb — Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman received notification today from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials that President Barack Obama approved a request for a presidential disaster declaration for parts of Nebraska impacted by severe storms, winter storms, tornadoes and flooding that occurred in nine Nebraska counties, Oct. 2-6.

The president, through FEMA, issued a public assistance declaration that provides assistance for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities in the following counties: Adams, Dawes, Dixon, Howard, Sheridan, Sherman, Sioux, Thurston and Wayne counties.

The declaration includes federal funding on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures for all counties in the state.

"Nebraskans appreciate approval of public assistance funding for the October 2013 storms," said Gov. Dave Heineman. "This will assist in the recovery process following storms that caused millions of dollars in damage in the state."

The disaster declaration allows federal emergency funding to be used in providing assistance to state and local governmental agencies and some nonprofit organizations.

"This will help our local communities recover some of the costs associated with responding to the emergency situations and rebuilding public infrastructure damaged by this disaster," said Al Berndt, assistant director of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. "NEMA will work closely with local governments to help speed up the recovery process."

NEMA's preliminary damage estimates to public infrastructure exceed \$3 million, with the most severe impacts to electrical infrastructure, roads and bridges, along with extensive tree damage in the panhandle.

Eligible costs include removal of storm debris, emergency protective measures and repair or replacement of disaster-damaged roads, bridges, public buildings, critical facilities, such as water, sewer and power systems, and other public facilities.

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